

What is claimed is

A thickened oil composition comprising

- (1) an oil, and
- (2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which
  - (a) has a crystalline melting point,  $T_p$ , and an onset of melting temperature,  $T_o$ , such that  $T_p - T_o$  is less than  $T_p^{0.7}$ ;
  - (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above  $T_p$ ,
  - (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
    - (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above  $T_p$ , and
    - (ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil, and
  - (d) has at least one of the following characteristics
    - (i) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which contains repeating units containing at least one group selected from oxygen-containing groups, e.g. a hydroxyl group; nitrogen-containing groups; fluorine-containing groups; and silicon-containing groups, e.g. silyl groups;
    - (ii) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of carboxylic groups, carboxylic groups in the form of salts, and sulfonic acid groups in the form of salts;
    - (iii) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which contains carboxylic acid groups in an amount less than 0.075 meq/g;
    - (iv) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which contains repeating units containing long chain alkyl groups containing at least 26 carbon atoms;

- (v) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of functional groups;
- (vi) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of ionizable groups;
- (vii) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is a block copolymer or a graft copolymer;
- (viii) it is a homopolymer;
- (xi) it is a main chain crystalline polymer; and
- (xii) it is a homopolymer or copolymer of caprolactone;

the composition being at a temperature below  $T_p$ ,

2. A composition according to Claim 1 which is substantially free of water.

3. A composition according to Claim 1 which is a water-in-oil emulsion.

4. A water-in -oil emulsion comprising

(1) an oil,

(2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which

(a) has a crystalline melting point,  $T_p$ , and an onset of melting temperature,  $T_o$ , such that  $T_p - T_o$  is less than  $T_p^{0.7}$ ;

(b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above  $T_p$ , and

(c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises  
(i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above  $T_p$ ,  
and

(ii) cooling the solution from step (i) to crystallize the polymer in the oil; and

(3) emulsified in the oil, water;

the composition being at a temperature below  $T_p$ ; being substantially free from surfactants; and having at least one of the following characteristics

(a) the oil is not a silicone oil;

(b) the polymer is free from units derived from methacrylic acid.

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